

MPSC Solar Working Group
Minutes
10 am – 12 pm, May 20, 2014
4300 W. Saginaw, MI 48843

Attendance: [Attendance Sheet](#)

Phone: Dave Leahy, Dovetail; Nate Geisler, City of Ann Arbor; Dave Ronk, Consumers Energy, Sarah Bertram, Sunrun; Bill Queen, NMC; Tom Stanton, NRRI

- [Solar Reactive Supply & Voltage Control, Fuel Price Hedge, Environmental Benefits Research](#)
Josh Cornfeld, Rachel Chalat, Ali Al-Heji – University of Michigan Students / Dow Fellowship

Questions/Comments from Solar Working Group:

The Hill Group will be releasing a report on the economic impact of renewables in Michigan.

Regarding reactive power control, most inverters already have this capability but are prevented from use because of standards. Inverters can be reprogrammed. Incorporating this benefit is not an added cost as far as equipment.

The federal social cost of carbon was used in this analysis because it is a federally-derived number with good support documentation.

- [Value and Cost of Distributed Generation](#), Ed Comer –Edison Electric Institute
[EEI – NRDC Joint Statement](#)

Questions/Comments from Solar Working Group:

An advantage of VOS is the utility recovers its fixed costs and all customers pay their fair share of grid costs.

Utilities do not pay for externalities to society.

Peak customer use is several hours later than solar peak.

Austin recently announced that it is purchasing central station solar at 5 cents per kWh.

Isn't the rooftop solar the banker under net metering? What about encouraging customer to orient their solar panels to the west to help with late afternoon sun. Net metering does not encourage homeowners to do this. They just want to produce the most kWh. Net metering is the easiest simplest way to incorporate solar DG.

Utilities do not pay for all of their environmental costs. It's hard to justify paying one segment (solar PV) for environmental costs when other clean segments (nuclear, wind, hydro, etc...) do not receive the same benefit.

The PSC does have the regulatory authority to oversee energy policy in MI. The current governor and past governor have both said that we need to encourage renewable energy. We are trying to move to a portfolio with more clean energy.

Utilities will have to modernize the grid whether solar is developed or not.

If we subsidize solar, do it explicitly so it is clear.

- [Hispanics in Energy](#) – Monica Martinez
- [The Fair Market Value of Solar: A Current State View](#) - Todd Lohrmann
- [MPSC Staff Sub-Group Updates](#) – (Due to timing Staff was unable to present its subgroup updates)
- Paul Proudfoot, Director of the MPSC's Electric Reliability Division, made closing statements thanking everyone for their participation and announcing that the draft report will be released for comment on June 10, 2014 with the final draft being released on June 30/July 1, 2014.